

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 59th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

JOINT APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Call to Order: By **MADAM CHAIR EVE FRANKLIN**, on February 1, 2005
at 10:08 A.M., in Room 102 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Eve Franklin, Chairman (D)
Rep. Bill E. Glaser (R)
Rep. Verdell Jackson (R)
Rep. Carol C. Juneau (D)

Members Excused: Sen. Don Ryan, Vice Chairman (D)
Sen. John Esp (R)
Sen. Carol Williams (D)

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Mark Bruno, OBPP
Alan Peura, Legislative Branch
Diana Williams, Committee Secretary
Birgitta Nelson, Transcriber

Please Note. These are summary minutes. Testimony and discussion are paraphrased and condensed. Tape counter notations refer to the material immediately preceding.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing & Date Posted: Montana State University (3
Educational Units & College of
Technology)
Executive Action: None

The Legislative Fiscal Analyst Assistant provided the Committee with a meeting agenda.

EXHIBIT(jeh25a01)

Opening Remarks by CHAIR: MADAM CHAIR FRANKLIN commented on the previous site-visit and tour of the Helena College of Technology, part of the University of Montana. She informed the Committee that the next presentation would be on Montana State University and its affiliate campuses. She gave the floor to MSU President, Geoffrey Gamble.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 0 - 2}

OVERVIEW OF THE FOUR CAMPUSES AND THREE AGENCIES ASSOCIATED WITH MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

Geoffrey Gamble, President, Montana State University-Bozeman (MSU), praised the Legislature for their hard work and dedication. He explained how the hearing presentation would proceed, indicating that the presentation was going to be multimedia using a Smart Board, video and PowerPoint presentation. Exhibit 2 contains a general overview as well as in depth coverage of MSU-Great Falls, MSU-Northern, MSU-Billings, and MSU-Bozeman. Exhibit 2 on February 2, 2005 contain the MSU-Billings and MSU-Bozeman portion to the presentation. He informed the Committee that each campus would present an overview and some of the specific concerns faced.

EXHIBIT(jeh25a02)

He indicated that there were four central themes upon which he had based his leadership: 1) higher education as an investment, 2) finding a way to use the money that is available more effectively in order to meet educational needs, 3) forming active partnerships, and 4) accountability.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 2 - 9.1}

Mr. Gamble presented the mission statement for MSU. It encompasses the three part mission of any university: 1) teaching, 2) research, and 3) service or outreach. He expressed that each of the four campuses provides special programmatic strengths and each serves different individuals. He felt that the variety among MSU campuses allows each Montanan to meet their individual goals.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 9.1 - 11.6}

Mr. Gamble continued, listing the individuals who are involved with MSU. He highlighted the necessity for partnerships among the different campuses. He mentioned some of the challenges which MSU faces; the need for space at the Colleges of Technology, increases in tuition, lack of state funding, demographic changes, retention of students, infrastructure changes, and price sensitivity for out-of-state students.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 11.6 - 24.7}

Overview of MSU-Great Falls

Mary Sheehy Moe, Dean and Chief Executive Officer of MSU-Great Falls, presented on the Montana State University-Great Falls campus, covered by Tab 2 in Exhibit 1. She condensed their mission statement into three main ideas: 1) preparing people and businesses for high-skill high-technology work, 2) preparing individuals to transfer to four-year programs, and 3) responding to business and community needs for post-secondary learning. The presentation was organized by the performance areas and benchmarks that were identified by the legislative Postsecondary Education Planning and Budget Committee (PEPB).

The first topic she addressed was demand. She indicated that over the past ten years MSU-Great Falls has increased from 605 full-time equivalent students (FTE) in 1994 to 1,098 FTE in 2004, an 81.7% increase. Historically the campus has had a majority of nontraditional students, 50% female students, and 5% to 6% Indian students. The enrollment of Indian students has increased over the last ten years. She reported that the demographics have also been changing. They are enrolling more traditional students, now having an equal split between traditional and nontraditional students. They are also experiencing an increase in transfer students.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 23.1 - 34.6}

Ms. Moe said there has also been an increase in the number of high school students enrolled in the College. She discussed the study titled *The Lost Senior Year*, which focuses on high school students who have completed their high school requirements and remain unengaged through their senior year.

Ms. Moe proceeded to discuss the next area of accountability, access to postsecondary education. The College is supposed to be a point of entry for individuals interested in higher education. They provide evening, weekend, and summer programs as well as on-line programs. She discussed the on-line opportunities provided. She remarked that nearly a third of the students enrolled were taking on-line courses and 50% take both on-line and on-campus classes. She inferred that it was a helpful venue for mothers and provided an equality of opportunity when dealing with learning.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 34.6 - 45.8}

The next aspect of access which she addressed was their off-campus programming. The campus currently serves communities through technology satellite centers, Transforming Regional Artisans into Creative Entrepreneurs (TRACE), and Cisco training.

{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 0 - 6.8}

Ms. Moe asserted that the next area of accountability was quality. She affirmed that the MSU-Great Falls campus was accredited by the National Association of Colleges and Universities. The College is also accredited on the healthcare program level. She related that all of the faculty are also highly qualified, with no less than a masters degree. She related that the student body was also highly motivated and qualified. She elaborated on the pass rates among the students (Page 8, Tab 2, Exhibit 1.)

{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 6.8 - 10.9}

Ms. Moe cited that the next area the legislative Committee had requested the College report about was completion rates and the results of their programming. She related that there was an increasing number of students who were graduating. She expressed a need for improved data collection concerning the post-graduate job force.

{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 10.9 - 13.8}

Ms. Moe then proceeded to discuss responsiveness, another performance area upon which the Committee had requested an update. She claimed that they tried to respond to local and regional needs for the economy, local business, and higher education. They are also thinking that they need to tie the projections for workforce development programming to actual needs in the region. They have been working with the Center for the Rocky Mountain West to project workforce development needs. They have discovered that they have strong health care programming, business, financial, and social services. However, they are not doing as well in the skilled trades. They are trying to partner with MSU-Northern to bring certain programs into the community. They are also very active in providing training to local businesses and to State departments.

She asserted that they were also trying to respond to the specific needs for higher education in Great Falls. MSU-Northern has a significant presence on the campus as does the College of Nursing, the Fire Services Program, and the Higher Education Center. There are degrees offered at MSU-Great Falls through all of the Montana State Units except for Montana Technology College.

{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 13.8 - 19}

Ms. Moe addressed the final area in which the College was being held accountable by the Committee, cost containment. She referred to a slide from the PowerPoint presentation, Page 12, Tab 2, Exhibit 1. She made a correction on the number of employee FTE in 2000 which should have read 81 rather than 59. She pointed out that in 2002 there was less spent per student than was spent during the previous two years. The last cost containment area she addressed was the cost for students. She noted that tuition had increased although they have been conservative of their other fees.

{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 19 - 21.4}

Ms. Moe finished by reporting on where the College was in terms of challenges. She focused on the three challenges which she felt were most pressing: 1) affordability of the education, 2) faculty compensation, and 3) space. She conveyed that they were trying to provide learning for people from all walks of life. She wants the College to be thought of as the quintessential College of Technology. She concluded by telling a story about the multi-generational education needs of an historic Montana family.

{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 21.4 - 32.5}

Overview of MSU-Northern

Mr. Gamble introduced Alex Capdeville, Chancellor of MSU-Northern located in Havre. The presentation was done through the Smart Board and a PowerPoint presentation. His presentation is covered by Tab 3, Exhibit 1.

{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 32.5 - 33.4}

Alex Capdeville, Chancellor of MSU-Northern, Havre, he provided information on the background, students, programs, future plans, and some of the challenges faced by the College. He discussed the needs assessment which they had conducted. He stated that there were four topics identified which needed to be addressed: 1) inability to recruit, 2) infrastructure issues, 3) planning, and 4) residence life. These have been his goals during his tenure during which they have completed a strategic plan addressing some of these needs. He mentioned that they work closely with MSU-Great Falls and with Lewistown.

{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 33.4 - 41.9}

Mr. Capdeville addressed some of the issues which they have focused on at MSU-Northern since the last legislative session. The primary issues have been related to infrastructure; focusing on roads and parking. They have paid for most of this through student fees. They were able to address the roof issue, placing \$1.2 million into roofing projects over the last year. They have also replaced the heating system in Family Housing and initiated a Classroom renovation Fee on campus.

{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 41.9 - 46.3}

He reported that they have rewired the infrastructure of the campus, and updated the computer systems. There has also been major renovations in Brockman Center's plumbing facilities.

{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 0 - 1.7}

Mr. Capdeville proceeded to discuss some of their accomplishments with the Legislature and Long Range Building. They renovated a major facility on campus and have begun construction on the Applied Technology Center. The Applied Technology Center was funded by the Legislature, private funds and a grant. Within this Center they are hoping to work with various industries on technology products. As an example he mentioned the testing they have performed on mint oil as a fuel additive.

He reported on the job placement rate after graduation from MSU-Northern. He indicated that 95% of graduates are employed, although the percentage depends on their field and 78% are working in Montana. He noted the internship possibilities the students have available. The average salary for a two-year associates degree is \$23,000 and almost \$32,000 for a four-year degree. The student body is composed mostly of nontraditional students with the majority of them being female, although it is coming close to an equal split. He provided a student profile; 19% are American Indian, 54% are female, and 46% are male. He claimed that it was an important mission of Northern to integrate American Indians into the school system. He also mentioned the presence of Canadian students on campus.

{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 1.7 - 13}

Mr. Capdeville expressed that Northern serves a dual mission because of their location on the Hi-Line and their ability to transfer students to other institutions. He indicated that tuition has increased, impacting their ability to compete with other colleges.

At this time MSU-Northern presented a video with five different student testimonials. The information for Jennifer Fanning, Brian Fry, Mandy Bighorn, and Randy Bachmeier is available on Pages 7-8, Tab 3, Exhibit 1. Kelly Paul's and Marci Keeler's testimony were not provided in the exhibit. Kelly Paul is the Student Body President. He indicated that there was a reoccurring trend among students to work a number of jobs in order to pay for the increasing costs of tuition. He stressed that it was important for the Committee to support Governor Schweitzer's scholarships. Marci Keeler is a student from Canada, who expressed how helpful the College is when it comes to Canadian students. She is an education major and will be able to continue her student teaching in Canada.

{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 13 - 20}

Mr. Capdeville reported on the programs offered through MSU-Northern. He asserted that the campus had a strong history of cooperation with industries such as General Electric, Burlington Northern, General Motors, Ford, Toyota Corporation, and Caterpillar. He talked about the apprenticeship training programs which they have initiated. Among these programs is the Plumbing Program, Pipe-Fitters Trades, Building Trades, and Electrical Trades. The Plumbing Program is the first program in this field located in Montana. He also extolled the virtues of the Athletics Program and the Graduate Cohort Program.

{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 20 - 29.4}

Mr. Capdeville moved on to discuss the future of the College. He related that recruitment and retention of students is still a significant issue. He attested that they were placing an emphasis on the credit transfer issue, workforce development and improving the campus infrastructure. He thought that some of the future challenges they faced were declining demographics along the Hi-Line, recruitment, infrastructure, cost to students, equipment for programs, lack of funds to develop new programs, and their inability to attract faculty to Havre because of pay.

{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 29.4 - 34.3}

Mr. Gamble concluded the first half of the MSU presentation, indicating that there would be time to ask questions of all the campus leaders the following day.

Public Testimony Related to MSU-Great Falls and MSU-Northern

Marty Wangen, Montana Dental Hygienists Association, provided written testimony to the Committee. She stressed that the Montana Dental Hygienists Association supported the continuation of appropriations for the operational expenses of the Dental Hygiene Program at MSU-Great Falls. She expressed that funding for the Program is important to maintain a viable workforce in Montana and provide access to the under-served.

EXHIBIT(jeh25a03)

{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 34.3 - 38.1}

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 11:30 A.M.

REP. EVE FRANKLIN, Chairman

for DIANA WILLIAMS, Secretary

EF/dw

Additional Exhibits:

EXHIBIT ([jeh25aad0.PDF](#))